



Charles Dickens

Mudfog and other Sketches

The **Mudfog Papers** was written by Victorian era novelist **Charles Dickens** and published from 1837–38 in the monthly literary serial **Bentley's Miscellany**, which he then edited. They were first published as a book as '**The Mudfog Papers and Other Sketches**. The **Mudfog Papers** relates the proceedings of the fictional '**The Mudfog Society for the Advancement of Everything**', a **Pickwickian** parody of the **British Association for the Advancement of Science** founded in **York** in 1831, one of the numerous Victorian learned societies dedicated to the advancement of Science. Like **The Pickwick Papers**, **The Mudfog Papers** claim affinity with **Parliamentary reports**, **memoirs**, and **posthumous papers**. The serial was illustrated by **George Cruikshank**. The fictional town of **Mudfog** was based on **Chatham** in **Kent**, where **Dickens** spent part of his youth. **Mudfog** was described by **Dickens** as being the town where **Oliver Twist** was born and spent his early years when the story first appeared in '**Bentley's Miscellany**' in **February 1837**, making it a continuation of **The Mudfog Papers**, but this allusion was removed when the story was printed in book form. At the conclusion of his first contribution, about the mayor of the provincial town of **Mudfog**, **Dickens** explains that "this is the first time we have published any of our gleanings from this particular source," referring to '**The Mudfog Papers**'. He also suggests that "at some future period, we may venture to open the chronicles of **Mudfog**." (Summary by **Wikipedia**)

Read by **Bob Neufeld**. Total running time: 3:39:15

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